
(Standard EC 02.02.01/EPs 3, 4, 5, 7)

- Sharps containers discarded when full
- All solutions should be labeled
- Document updated expiration date for any open or mixed products
- Spill kits if required, (Mercury, blood and body fluid, etc.)
- Appropriate disposal of waste amalgam x

Infection Prevention and Control

The organization reduces the risk of infections associated with medical equipment, devices, and supplies. (Standard IC 02.02.01/EPs 1, 2, 4)

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Follow manufacturer's recommended frequency when cleaning and performing low-level disinfection of dental supplies and devices
- Follow manufacturer's recommended contact time for surface disinfection of operatories between patients

Requirements for sterilizing dental equipment, devices, and supplies (also see Environment of Care above):

- Include dental in organization's infection prevention policy
- Select an infection control guideline applicable to dental (i.e. CDC Dental Infection Prevention Guidelines)
- Pack sterile instruments to avoid perforations,
- Use different personal protective equipment (PPE) for patient care versus sterilization areas
- Document sterilization loads to include contents, date, time, temperature, pressure

Storing dental equipment, devices, and supplies:

- Dental staff disinfecting dental impressions with an appropriate spray prior to removing them from the treatment area
- Dental supplies checked periodically to allow for removal of expired materials (e.g. sutures, composite tip, fluoride, restorative materials, indicator strips, disinfection cleaners)
- If not utilizing cassettes to contain dental instruments, watch for perforated sterilization bags
- Dirty instruments are transported in closed, impervious, biohazard labeled containers from operatory to decontamination area
- Staff use appropriate recapping techniques and safety items when recapping syringes
- Staff members use different PPE for patient care vs. instrument processing area

- Should be an adequate amount of separation between clean and dirty instrument processing area to avoid contamination of clean instruments

- Should have a process for covering multi-use plastic syringes, if used, to avoid cross contamination

Rights and Responsibilities of the Individuals

The organization honors the patient's rights to give or withhold informed consent.

(Standard RI 01.03.01/EP 1)

Informed Consent Policy and Procedures:

- Ensure the patient dental consent form:
 - documents that the patient was informed of benefits, risks, or alternatives
 - includes minors
 - covers both the procedure and any sedation required
 - is used with each new dated procedure
 - is complete with organization required information (e.g. tooth number)
 - Document that the patient dental consent form was completed
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Universal Protocol

A time-out is performed before the invasive procedure. (NPSG UP 01.03.01/EPs 1, 5)

Conduct and Document a Time-Out:

- Educate/train dental staff on the organization's policy assuring that all components of the time-out are conducted
- Document that the time-out was conducted prior to procedure
- Perform a time-out when conducting invasive procedures (e.g. extractions)